

Many deer have taken up temporary winter residence near many hay and alfalfa stacks in Wasatch

County. This small group of animals was sighted on Doyle Wilson's in Midway.

DWR begins deer feeding program

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MIDWAY — Three years ago, it was near mayhem for deer in Wasatch County.

Thousands of animals died after a barrage of early snow and extended cold weather.

Now to prevent a repeat of what happened in 1992-93, the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has instituted an emergency feeding program in Wasatch County.

The scope of the feeding program is limited, according to Scott Root, public information officer for the DWR's Central Region.

"We don't feel that it's necessary to expand the feeding program beyond Wasatch County. Some of the troughs are located near River Road in Midway."

A trip to Wasatch County three years ago yielded a startling sight — hundreds of dead or nearly dead deer. The ones that survived the brutal January cold of 1993 didn't last past February.

The sight was very different this week. The deer are not as ragged, thin or weak as previous hard winters. They went into a series of storms the past three weeks with good fat reserves.

"We started putting out some

feed troughs in the Midway area," said Bruce Giunta, the DWR big game manager for the Central Region. "We have only put out five or six feed stations using lamb-starter feed pellets. For some reason, the snow is always deeper in the Midway area than other parts of the Heber Valley."

Giunta said when the snow does get deep, the animals move into the many warm springs areas of Midway, but there is simply no food available. The other alternative is deer become part-time residents of ranchers' and farmers' haystacks.

"The deer using the feed troughs are not in bad shape," said Giunta. "The feeding program is just a precautionary measure — we didn't want them to get into the shape of being nutritionally deprived."

Giunta said the reason many deer can't find adequate feed in traditional winter areas is the number of homes, golf courses and other development.

"I suspect that this late in the season the feeding program won't be of long duration," said Giunta.

The food pellet is made of several ingredients including alfalfa meal, soybean and cottonseed meal, ground up barley and corn and added vitamins.

Root said the number of deer being fed is a few hundred, which is evidence that most of the other herds in the Heber area are in decent shape.

Some of the south-facing slopes at higher elevations have limited snow because of windy conditions, thus deer are better able to find feed.

While the depredation is lower this year, some ranchers don't seem to mind deer munching on their hay or alfalfa.

"I have lived here all my life," said Doyle Wilson of Midway, "I have seen deer feeding on alfalfa and hay even during the summer and I have never swathed up a dead deer that's died from eating alfalfa. There are about 20 or 30 deer that settle in for the winter feeding on my hay and alfalfa."

Wilson said that in 1993, the number of dead deer on his property reached over 100.

"The fish and game [DWR] came and picked up 50 dead animals back in '93, but they quit coming after that because there were so many."

The DWR is continuing its aerial count of big game herds in Central Utah. Wednesday, the DWR flew over Sanpete County doing an elk census.

For Disney to be awarded the permanent waiver it sought, it would have had to prove that the combined ownership was in the public interest. The FCC has granted only two waivers to its newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership rules. And, the standard has been very tough — that a

cisco, Flint-Detroit, and Toledo-Detroit, the attorneys said.

A coalition led by the Center for Media Education opposed letting Disney own both the radio and newspaper properties in Fort Worth and Pontiac-Detroit.

Law sends ing to ousers

and 19 other groups.

"What Congress has done is criminalize indecent speech sent the Internet," Presser said. "Astoundingly they haven't bothered to define what indecent speech is."

The ACLU and other groups say the law is too broad and would outlaw, for example, electronic transmissions of some rap lyrics and literature such as "Catcher in the Rye."

The law defines indecency as "any comment, request, suggestion, proposal, image or other communication that, in context, depicts or describes, in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards, sexual or excretory activities or organs."

Violations would be punished by a maximum of two years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

Thanks to a last-minute addition by Rep. Henry Hyde, an Illinois Republican, it also extends a

The new rules

The sweeping telecommunications bill Congress passed Thursday affects every aspect of the media. How the government is likely to become more or less involved:

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Local telephone

LESS

Cable, long-distance and other companies can now compete for local service; the law pre-empts state and local regulatory barriers.

Television MORE

